

HACKNEY PEOPLE'S PRESS



JUNE/JULY 1977

TWENTY-FIFTH ISSUE

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Four years ago, Hackney's two alternative papers merged to found the Hackney People's Press.

Since then our life has not been without its ups and downs. But we have ploughed on -- sometimes regular, sometimes badly written and produced -- but we hope frequently enough and with enough interesting content to make the paper for the people of Hackney worth reading. We are all still amateurs, writing and producing the paper in our spare time.

Now we find that we have reached our twenty-fifth issue at the same time as someone else's jubilee, not much to shout about perhaps but enough to make us determined to keep going, and to keep fighting on the people's side.

The Hackney People's Press is the people's paper, YOUR paper, and is open for you to use. Contact us if you've something to say!

EXCLUSIVE

Queen reveals all

PAGE 3



PICKETS COUNTER FASCIST MEETING

On the 30th April, just after the last issue of HPP had been published, the Fascist National Front held an election meeting in Shoreditch school. Many readers will have seen the massive counter-demonstration and march supported by anti-fascists of all political persuasions called by the teachers at the school. The meeting was advertised in advance in the Hackney Gazette - despite a walk-out by all the journalists on the paper who "did not want the Hackney Gazette to be used in any way by a party whose main aim is racial hatred".

The paper's editor claimed that the advertisement was "thoroughly innocuous", yet he refused to carry an advertisement for the peaceful protest - so much for freedom of speech!

One of the reporters on the Gazette, Juliet Alexander, said of their walk-out: "We were supported in our action against the National Front advert by 70 organisations in the borough. We stayed out for three days over this. We lost three days' pay, but we don't care. We'd stay out for six months - we think it's that important". Certainly, a huge storm of protest followed the editor's decision; John Carr, Hackney's Community Relations Officer, said that the decision to print the advert showed "insensitivity on the part of the editor of incredible proportion".

In Shoreditch school itself the teachers were horrified to find that the meeting had been booked while they were on holiday. They decided to call for the picket and to send a letter to parents expressing their opposition to the meeting; they also raised the issues with their classes and produced a leaflet to counter racialist propaganda. The school is multi-racial and some of the teachers are black, clearly the NF's meeting place was deliberately chosen as an insult to the people of all nationalities who make up Hackney's community. The NF's racialist policies are just the old, old idea of "divide and rule"; the problems facing the



Local NF boss Derrick Day and heavy friends at the meeting.

Day has now been expelled from the NF for associating with the British Movement - or was it for making a fool of himself on TV recently?

people of Hackney over schools, housing, hospitals, etc can only be solved by direct united action by the people.

So, what can be done to stop the NF promoting their racialist lies? Relying on the politicians and the law is no answer. During an election, under the "Representation of the People" Act the NF could have insisted on hiring Shoreditch school, even if it had been already hired by some other non-political group. In theory right-wing Labour Education Minister Shirley Williams could have stopped the meeting but even then, in that unlikely event, her decision could be challenged in court. One GLC councillor felt so strongly that he wanted the law to be broken and the school locked to prevent the meeting. This fine idea was thrown out, however; amongst those voting against it being GLC councillor for Hackney South Margaret Morgan.

In the end, as always, only direct action by teachers, parents and local workers can prevent the fascists gaining a foot-hold in Hackney. This was done in the 1930s when the same problems faced the people of East London and when Mosley's Blackshirts sought to "divide and rule".

All Hackney residents who believe people should be judged by their action and not the

colour of their skin or their race should:

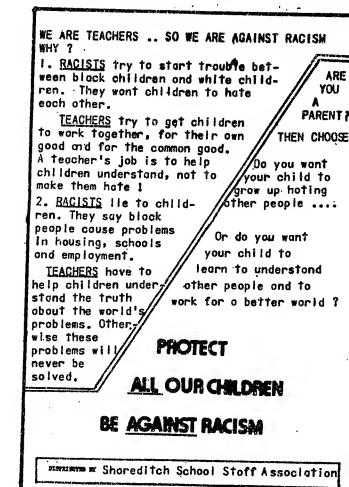
Support all anti-fascist protests

Oppose the use of local community buildings, schools etc for fascist meetings

Help to leaflet anywhere that fascists and racialists try to spread their vile and inhuman propaganda

An excellent leaflet was distributed by Shoreditch School Staff Association, and copies are available from: 167, Carlingford Road, London N15 3ET.

Below: Shoreditch teachers' leaflet



The best Page 3 girls are in your

sexy

HPP



The Royal salaries and percentage increases during Phase Two of the Social Contract

	1975 (£)	1976 (£)	increase
Queen	1,400,000	1,665,000	+ 19%
Queen Mother	95,000	140,000	+ 47%
Duke of Edinburgh	65,000	85,000	+ 31%
Princess Margaret	35,000	50,000	+ 43%
Princess Anne	35,000	45,000	+ 28.5%
Duke of Kent	35,000	45,000	+ 28.5%
Princess Alexandra	30,000	40,000	+ 33%
Duchess of Gloucester	20,000	25,000	+ 25%

Figures from Labour Research.

Estimated cost per annum of Royal Family: £5½M

Tax paid by Queen: None

Largest single shareholder in Rio Tinto Zinc

Personal fortune: about £500M

Main occupation: acting as a figurehead for the rich and powerful who control our society, to make people feel inferior and to convince us that only remote "special people" know what's best for us.

Quote from Duke of Edinburgh, in the "Director" magazine: "We must not concentrate so heavily on the unsuccessful and unfortunate and the underprivileged, but try to create a situation where the enterprising can make their contribution".
... such as the Royal Family no doubt.

Luscious Liz Windsor is a simple sort of girl whose hobbies are travelling the world and riding.

Married to a Greek prince and one of the world's richest women, she nevertheless earns £30,000 per week tax-free, posing for crowds at lavish state banquets and jamborees throughout the world.

Two faced squat-bash by Council

Every household in Hackney gets a copy of the Hackney Herald, the Council's give-away quarterly newspaper. Readers of the summer issue have been amazed to see the virulent front-page attack on squatters, denounced as "vagrant vandals" and the "squatting menace", after the destruction of three flats in Amhurst Road, N16.

Hackney People's Press has been investigating this story and finds that evidence for this outburst is hard to come by. A homeless couple with two children (the Council claims to know the name but won't divulge it) moved into one flat in the house and stayed there about six weeks. Before they could be served with a possession order they moved out. Another six weeks passed before anyone from the Council visited the house. Is it possible that vandals - unconnected with the squatters - got into the house in the meantime? The Hackney Herald doesn't think so, despite the fact, shown in a survey published last week, that the vast majority of squatters do not vandalise their houses but in fact repair them!

It also would seem most unlikely that a family of four would need to live in 3 flats in the same house. Len Manley, the editor

of Hackney Herald and the Council's public relations officer, told HPP that he thought the family were occupying all three flats. He also said that although the Council know the name of the family they are not taking any action for malicious damage. Strange behaviour indeed! He couldn't comment on the six-week interval between the family leaving and the Council's inspection because the housing officer was off sick!

The Advisory Service for Squatters is just one squatting organisation regularly contacted by people sent by social services departments of all London's councils, Hackney included. They described the Hackney Herald article as an attempt to smear all squatters. "In our experience squatters do not wreck houses. In many cases they have to undertake substantial repairs to make them habitable. For many people - 30,000 in London - squatting is the only option because they can't find anywhere else to live."

Len Manley denied that his article was a "squatter-bashing" story, although he has described squatting as a "menace to our society". He couldn't comment on the number of empty houses owned in the Amhurst Road area



by the Council which have fallen into decay because they have been empty so long.

It is ironic also that Amhurst Road is just a few minutes walk from Barbauld Road where the Council themselves two years ago went on a similar "shocking trail of destruction" to vandalise houses to prevent squatters moving in.

Of course it's difficult to counter the mass of opinion influenced by the Council's free handout paper with its mass circulation. Next time you read such stories you may wonder whose interests are being served - the Council's (with its hundreds of houses left empty) - or the 30,000 people in London who have no alternative.

Government trumps up Secrets Charges

The last issue of HPP described the arrests and charges under Section 2 of the Official Secrets Act of two journalists, Crispin Aubrey (once of Hackney People's Press) and Duncan Campbell, and an ex-soldier, John Berry. Since then, to the amazement of the three men and their supporters, the prosecution under Section 2 has not only been approved, but further charges under Section 1 and Section 7 have been brought also. Unlike the discredited Section 2, Section 1 is normally used to deal with "agents of a foreign power" (the Vassalls and Blakes of this world who sold secrets to the Russians.) Were its penalties not so serious - fourteen years in jail - the charges would be laughable.

One Labour MP, Robin Cook, has described the use of Section 1 in this case as a "rewriting of

the law". He has suggested that the Government is extending the scope of Section 1 to "avoid the embarrassment of proceeding under Section 2" which the Government is pledged to repeal.

For although the police and MI5 investigations have been continuing for several months, the only evidence against the three is what they talked about on the one evening that they met in February.

The three are not allowed to talk about their conversation that night, but it is certain that there is no suggestion that the three were involved with anything remotely connected with spying. Berry left the army seven years ago and reached the rank of corporal: the Russians are hardly likely to be interested in anything that he could tell them, even if he wanted to.

So, if the charges are so

ridiculous, why have they been brought? The answer is quite simple. The men are an embarrassment to a government which is hampered, as all governments are, by an independent so-called "security" service, which is answerable to no one and dedicated to repression and secrecy. They have upped the stakes so that (they hope) a jury will be swayed and influenced by the trappings of a full-blown "secrets" trial. Ordinary people should not be frightened by all this talk of "national security". The people have a right to know what their money is being spent on, and have a right to freedom of speech. These charges are just an attempt to stop us finding out more about them, our "Big Brothers".

AUBREY BERRY CAMPBELL DEFENCE CTTE.
c/o Time Out, 374 Grays Inn Rd, WC1.

GLC double act

In summer 1973 Morningside Estate was much like every other estate in Hackney. There was a resident caretaker whom the tenants could consult, the forecourt was swept regularly, the dustbins emptied, and the outside wood had just had a coat of blue paint. There was just the occasional flat that became vacant and would be filled again.

Soon everything was to change.



During 1974 the GLC decided they would run a highway through Hackney. The road was to be for lorries taking their loads from the Channel ports through London and also for other traffic as well. The plan drawn up and produced by the GLC Public Information Branch in November 1974 made it clear to see that some of Morningside Estate would have to come down if a "six-lane" highway was to be built as was proposed then. Some tenants in Morningside Estate moved out (or perhaps were moved out?) Later two blocks of flats were almost completely emptied.

The highway through Hackney was bitterly opposed by flat-owners and shopkeepers alike; also by the stall holders of Ridley Road Market as the new road appeared to pass near Ridley Road. A big meeting of Hackney people was held in the Town Hall, where the people made it abundantly clear that the highway was not wanted in Hackney. As a result of this, the plan for the highway was stopped. The tenants of the older flats in Morningside Estate were told that their flats were to be re-modernised. This was two years ago, and the people (with the exception of those in two flats) are still waiting for new homes, or for the modernisation of the ones

More sinister events have been taking place in 1977. By now two blocks, Retreat House and Woolpack House are nearly empty, and a third one, half empty of GLC tenants. There is ample evidence to show that there have been things done by the GLC (or agents of the GLC) to encourage remaining tenants to get out of these premises, without rehousing them.

The large container dustbins have been left unemptied for days on end, and rubbish spills out through the doors onto the forecourts. This has encouraged rats to the premises. The pigeons (not unwelcome out-of-doors) have entered the buildings and nested in the lofts, keeping tenants awake at night. Covers have been removed from the chutes and drains have become blocked. Paint has completely peeled from some window frames and from doors, leaving the wood exposed to rain. Whilst the conditions of life have deteriorated and deteriorated, rents have doubled.

The latest news from the Department of the Environment is that the earliest Morning Lane will be widened is sometime in 1980, maybe as late as 1982. Must this mean that the families living in the older part of Morningside must live in ever worsening conditions? And that this must go on for some three to five years more? Do the planners have to reduce people to living in slums, in order that some imaginary "drawing board" estate may be produced? When will they begin to realise that people matter and that ALL people matter. A "people orientated" plan would consider modernising the estate block by block, so that when one House of flats is completed there would be flats at hand for the tenants of the next block to move into.

The impression the GLC is giving at the moment is that, while on the one hand they wish to modernise the blocks of flats (by producing new lights, some new doors, and sending men dashing in with new radiators), on the other hand they intend to reduce the blocks to slum conditions so that they can pull the whole lot down. In this way Hackney's housing list lengthens.

TENANTS' VICTORY AT FRAMPTON PARK

Tenants on the GLC Frampton Park Estate have organised themselves into an association, and have successfully opposed a plan for an outside organisation to take over the estate community rooms.

Earlier this year Labour Party canvassers for the GLC elections found that tenants wanted to make use of the large hall and rooms on their estate, and so a petition was taken up and presented to County Hall. It was then that the tenants found out that the GLC had agreed to let the rooms to an outside organisation - the British Legion. This agreement had been made without any consultation with the tenants, and in fact they were told by the GLC that they must get in touch with the British Legion directly if they wanted to use the rooms. The British Legion, however refused to allow the tenants to use the rooms.

A public meeting was called and about 200 people turned up, and only after calls to the GLC and to their MP, Ron Brown, were the tenants able to hold their meeting in the hall. As a result of their efforts and pressure by Ron Brown, the tenants now have the use of the community rooms on their estate, and a tenants association has now been formed which is managing the rooms.

Community rooms are built on estates to help improve community life on the estate and in the surrounding area; and it is quite clearly wrong that such rooms should be let for the exclusive use of outside bodies such as the British Legion. Even though they may have a strong local membership, the rooms should be managed by a body which represents a wide range of local interests. A GLC policy which allows the letting of community rooms to outside bodies should be challenged as strongly as possible so that the members of the community for whom these rooms are built have the right to say how these rooms should be used.

NB The London Borough of Hackney does not as a rule let community rooms for the exclusive use of outside organisations.

IN MEMORIAM

In January this year the closure of the Metropolitan Hospital signalled another nail in the coffin of Hackney's deteriorating health service. It is becoming daily more apparent that the already stretched facilities of the other Hackney hospitals are unable to cope properly with the Metropolitan's case load.

The beleaguered St Leonard's Hospital is the worst affected. Waiting times for routine surgery which were 27 days before the Met's closure have increased to as much as 114 days. Even more serious is that urgent surgery cases which might have been carried out almost immediately may now find themselves at the end of a 2½ month queue.

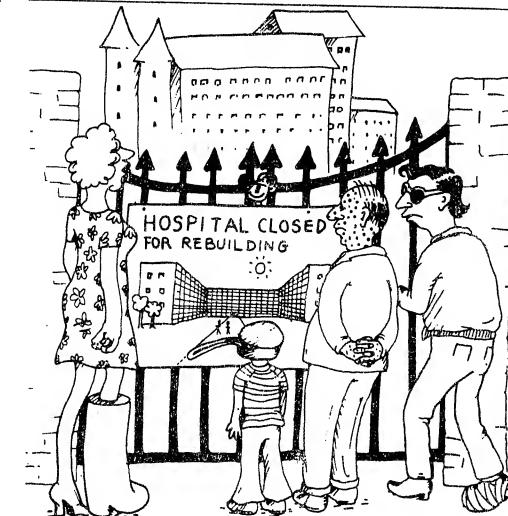
HEART-BREAKING EXPERIENCE

But even figures as damaging as these do not highlight the problem as graphically as the heart-breaking experiences of patients which have come to light.

An example is the woman with a serious and painful back injury who had had her bed at St Leonard's cancelled at the last moment on three occasions. It last she was due for admission on 11 May.

Understandably she contacted the hospital the day before to confirm that everything was OK. She was assured that it was. However on arrival at St Leonard's the next day she was again told her bed had been cancelled.

It would be nice to think that this is exceptional, but when the St Leonard's consultant was contacted about it he said that there were many similar cases.

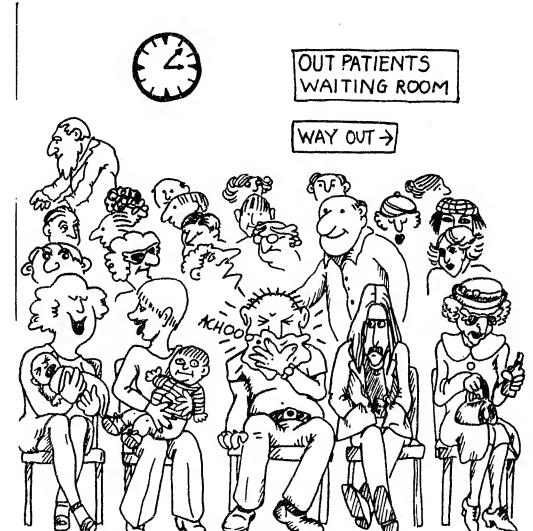


There is a long-term plan for a "nucleus" hospital to be built on the site of the Eastern which will specifically deal with acute cases. A nucleus hospital is one which can be added to as and when the need arises. A fine idea, but one which is unlikely to come to fruition until the mid-1980s.

In the meantime the Area Health Authority (AHA) anticipate that most of the Met's caseload would be adequately taken up by St Leonard's and Bart's.

BITTER OPPOSITION

Another example is the man who arrived at the Accident Unit at St Leonard's. He was promptly sent down the road to the Met's outpatients (which will not be closed for another couple of months) to see a specialist. The specialist decided he should be hospitalized immediately. There were no beds at the Met of course. He tried St Leonard's first and then Hackney and Bart's, but none of them were able to take the man in. This gruesome pass-the-parcel game only finished when a bed was eventually found at an Islington hospital through the Emergency Services.



the Met. Most importantly its X-ray and out-patients units are inadequate. Thirdly, there is a grave shortage of beds in the other Hackney hospitals and there can be no guarantee that they will always be able to absorb the residue.

The need to improve the out-patients block at St Leonard's has long been accepted. It was therefore a shock to many on the CHC when at a recent meeting with the Area Health Authority it was revealed that an application for improvements to the block had only just been made.

A much more imminent proposal that the nucleus hospital scheme is the spending of £220,000 in reopening some specialist wards at St Mark's, Bart's and the Hackney hospitals. These wards had originally been closed at the same time as the Met.

If it was hoped that the CHC would be pacified by this decision then the Minister and the Area Health Authority were to be sadly disappointed.

DEPUTATION

On 30 May the CHC and the Hackney MPs led a deputation to the Minister of Health to protest that the proposed £200,000 expenditure was a misuse of public funds. They argued that the opening of these specialist wards would do nothing to tackle the problems arising from the rundown state of Hackney's hospitals in general and the closure of the Met in particular. It was again a case of the needs of the hospitals which serve primarily local needs being sacrificed to the interests of the teaching hospitals which do not.

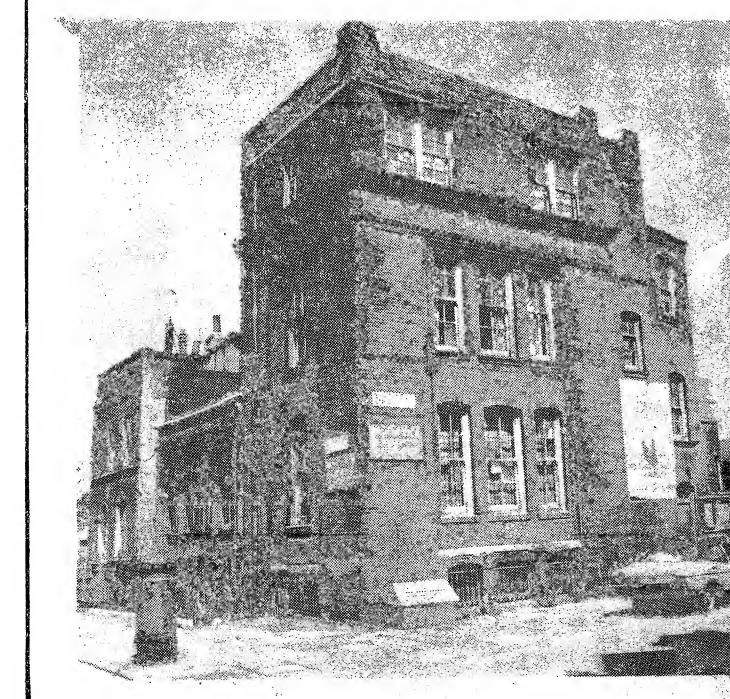
Although the Community Health Council as the Health Service's watchdog is often criticised for lacking teeth, it has proved in the past that it can be effective. For instance it was successful in preventing the closure of the Mothers hospital. Pat Gordon (the local CHC Secretary) is determined that the Council should step up its campaign to prevent further cutbacks and closures. She feels that one of the most effective weapons in this campaign is the documenting of the experiences of Hackney people such as the two examples earlier in this article.

HPP urges any of its readers who have suffered a long wait for a bed or have been pushed around from one hospital to another or something similar to write in to their MP, Councillor or the CHC about it. You may provide valuable ammunition in a battle which directly affects us all.

COMMUNITY HEALTH COUNCIL

City and Hackney Community Health Council, c/o Pat Gordon, 210 Kingsland Road, London E2 8EB. Tel 739-6308/8351.

new labour premises



Hackney South and Shoreditch Constituency Labour Party will be moving to new premises in October, now that their lease on their old HQ at Shepherdess Walk (see photo *left*) has expired. They will share the new Labour and Trades Union Hall with Hackney Central Labour Party and the Trades Council. The Labour and Trades Union Hall (see photo *right*) is at Lebons Corner in Dalston Lane.

There will be three meeting rooms and also a club-room with a licensed bar. A big advantage of the move for many Hackney South members is that it will be a lot easier to get to than Shepherdess Walk.

However the Labour Party will be maintaining their presence in Shoreditch by setting up an Advice Centre in the area later this year.



'We Shall Not Be Moved'

HACKNEY TEACHERS FIGHT COMPULSORY TRANSFERS

For socialists in the field of education, the task ahead is not so much 'fighting the cuts' but rather that of picking up the pieces after a massacre. Since December 1973 six major rounds of cuts have slashed the Education budget by a staggering £1553 million or about one-third of the total Education budget.

Within central Government's overall strategy of cuts it has been left to the local authorities to decide for their areas exactly where the economies are to be made.

The Inner London Education Authority (ILEA) which administers Hackney's schools has chosen a 'hit-growth' policy. This means the pupil-teacher ratio has not deteriorated but at the expense of many other things.

The situation is further complicated by the falling school population. This is especially marked in Inner London because of the movement of families out of the city.

On the one hand many teachers have argued that this is a unique opportunity to reduce class sizes, vary the curriculum and make the comprehensive system work as it should. On the other hand the Government have put pressure on the Education authorities to reduce staff in proportion to the falling roles. This could only mean putting many more newly qualified teachers straight onto the dole queue.

It might also mean redundancies in areas such as Inner London where the decline in rolls is considerably faster than the natural wastage of teachers.

Thus the agreement that has been made between the Inner London Teachers' Association (ILTA) and the ILEA on compulsory transfers represents an unhappy compromise. Through this agreement the ILEA have guaranteed no redundancies in exchange for the Union's co-operation with the policy of moving teachers from one school to another in order to get the most equitable distribution of the total teaching force.

ILTA has laid down as part of the agreement safeguards to protect the interests of teachers facing compulsory transfer. It covers such matters as prior consultation with the teacher, ensuring that moves are consistent with the teacher's training and experience and "wherever possible" the offering of a choice of schools. However, it is a woolly agreement, open to wide interpretation and much will depend on how rigorously the Union presses the cases of its members who feel they have been given a raw deal.

The decision as to which schools are to lose staff and which are to gain is based on a notional pupil:teacher ratio. In primary schools this ratio is 29:1 and in secondary schools it is 17:1.

All teachers who may be transferred in schools over the "authorised ratio" receive a letter from Divisional Office and are interviewed by an ILEA inspector.

In a broadsheet entitled "Hackney Schools at Risk" the Hackney Teachers Association argues that wholesale transfers mean unhappiness and insecurity for teachers and in many cases will retard their professional development. Transfers, it continues, will mean a frequently changing and unstable staffing in schools and will make impossible the development of a meaningful learning relationship between children and teachers.

In some instances the compulsory transfer may mean a subject vanishing from the time-table altogether.

An example of this is if a school's specialist music teacher is the one to be transferred. Although that is only perhaps 1 teacher out of 30 staff in an undersubscribed school, as far as music teaching in that school is concerned it may represent a 100% loss.

TWO LOCAL EXAMPLES

Other examples from local schools in Hackney further highlight the problem.

1. EDITH CAVELL (Dalston Secondary)

Already undersubscribed and with the disadvantage of being on a split site.

According to the ILEA staffing standards the school will lose 5 teachers. However many of the ancillary roles in teaching will be largely unaffected. In other words exactly the same amount of playground duty work and dinner duties will have to be shared around the depleted staff. And then there is the disruption of the curriculum. Social studies will probably go altogether and the remedial department will be badly affected. It is "minority interest" subjects that must go by the board, where a strict staff-pupil ratio is being adhered to.

2. TYSSEN INFANTS (Stoke Newington)

They have been informed that they must lose one member of staff in September 1977. Over the past year they have been able to use a member of staff to take special English classes for the children of immigrant families. When the spare teacher leaves, this will no longer be possible although the need for it will be every bit as great. The two members of staff, who received transfer letters from Divisional Office have threatened non-cooperation with the Authority over this. Five other members of staff have signed a letter to the school's managers expressing support for their stand.

WHAT YOU CAN DO

Hackney NUT passed a resolution in January declaring its opposition to the ILTA/ILEA agreement and resolved to set up a Cuts Action Committee.

The Committee urges teachers to prepare a case to show how staff cuts will affect the curriculum. This should be sent to Divisional Office, County Hall, MPs and the GLC councillors.

Hackney NUT are holding a demonstration against Compulsory Transfer on Wednesday 22 June. They will assemble at Kingsland Waste at 4.15 pm and march to the old Odeon, Stamford Hill via the Divisional Office.

Poems over Hackney

The Hackney Writers' Workshop, based at the Centerprise bookshop in Kingsland High Street, is going from strength to strength. From its beginnings in September last year, a regular pattern of fortnightly meetings was established. The writers are ordinary, working people, who

write about particular experiences in their lives. Most of them left school at an early age, and so there is little wandering through hosts of golden daffodils.

Each meeting is basically a workshop, writers read their works-poetry and short stories, chapters from novels in progress-and comments are invited; they are

THE LEATHER JACKET COWBOY

He came down Blackstock Road like a rocket, astride his gleaming silver machine.

But he hit a car then another and his body rebounded off of yet another finally coming to rest spreaddagled and broken on the dusty summer pavement of 61, then as his blood went bubbling and gurgling along gutter towards Finsbury Park a cautious, curious population came to stare.

A grisly source of derisory gossip had come screaming from nowhere and plopped deliciously at their feet.

But to us all those years ago it was a much more serious business, a tragedy.

Our hero was irretrievably lost, gone for ever, and with him went our hopes dreams and spiritual aspirations, all gobbled up and spat out on the black tarmac by the greedy violent snarling machine we adored and worshipped.

Dave Barnes

HOT AIR BALLOON

Flame roars like sighs of a God,
Ragged flicker spurting up towards
heavans

The breath of life to huge breast of air
Breathes its reply to the sighs of the dragon's tongue
Swaying in the wind like a wounded jellyfish,
Slowly falling to earth.

With the sudden shock of thunder,
Flame erupts to renew life,
And the living pocket of air
Is pulled to the sky,
But finite powers, like the shock of death
Pull her down again,
Refused by invisible hands
And she drops once more to earth.

As once I reached for skies refused,
Falling on harsh ground,
So much 'hot-air',
Bubble bursting to the touch
Seeking renewed purpose undiscovered.
Like an inflated balloon
Gorged on air
I breathed new life
And knew that life was the Sun I sought.

Phil Edwards

teaching each other. Despite the highly personal (and embarrassing) problem of revealing one's life and thoughts in front of others, the group is knitting together as friendships grow. However, this said, I should mention the group is open to new members. The youngest member is 16; the most "senior" 70, each has a point of view and they learn from each other.

Recently the group has begun to make greater contact with the people, many have read their work to foreign ears, notably at Chat's Palace. An evening of their work (together with the black youth 'Talking Blues' group, will take place on June 18th to celebrate the re-opening of the Centerprise coffee bar. But for those who have got their copy of HPP late!-may I recommend their first anthology, provisionally called 'East End Voices', to be published shortly by Centerprise. ;

P.S They like a pint too!

Newspaper Summer Scheme

A section of the next issue of the Hackney People's Press will be written and put together by school children and school leavers who will be taking part in a newspaper workshop organised by Centerprise for the 4-week period of 25 July-19 August. Participants will be introduced to the skills of interviewing and editing, layout and photography.

A second workshop on radio programme production will co-operate with Hackney Hospital Radio, broadcasting to patients' earphones in the hospital. In addition to disc jockeying, news programmes and radio plays etc will be attempted, and if the standard of production reached is high enough the group will try to persuade one of the local stations to broadcast a short programme produced by them. There is still an opening for a paid leader for this workshop.

A drama workshop is the third one intended for those in the 14-20 age group.

The fourth workshop, a Young Naturalists Club, will be for younger children between 9 and 13 years old who are interested in natural history. It will be organised around outings to zoos, nature trails, museums etc. Teachers or others interested in helping to plan a programme or to act as volunteers would be very welcome.

For further information contact Jean Gould, c/o Centerprise, 136 Kingsland High St, E8. Tel 254 9632

25 ISSUES AGO ...

HACKNEY PEOPLE'S PRESS 5p

No1

An amalgamation of Hackney Action and Hackney Gutter Press

May

THE PEOPLE TAKE THE LAND

No Beaumis Beaumis



As this is our 25th issue we thought we would take a look at our first issue and summarise some of the events and issues we dealt with in May 1973.

We reported criticism in the Trades Council of the TUC's decision to hold a day of protest and action on May 1 against the Heath Government's pay restrictions. The Trades Council was split between supporters of direct rank and file action and those who wished to follow the TUC leadership. As usual the growing rank and file protest was being held back by the "leadership".

There was a 3-day teachers' strike over the London allowance which took place against a background of very high staff turnover in many London schools. Teachers could not afford to buy houses whose prices had risen an average of 76% since the allowance had last been increased. The teachers wanted an increase from £118 to £300, the local authorities were willing to offer £200, but the Government insisted on only £133.

The Ringway road was "scrapped" by the new (Labour) GLC. (Now, however, the Hackney Wick-Highbury Corner is still being threatened!)

In an article on Kingsmead Estate, quote from a tenant: "Authority is like a hen sitting on an egg (us). One day that egg will hatch".

Perhaps the most disturbing report was that about Black Activist Tony Soares, who was convicted on April 2 of "attempting to incite" an unknown reader of Grass Roots, a black community newspaper, to make an explosive substance and commit arson on property unknown. This was the first time that an

"attempting to incite" charge had been used. The article concerned was reprinted word for word from an American publication 'The Black Panther' which itself felt that Grass Roots had a duty, as a community newspaper, to publish articles submitted by the black community even if the editorial committee disagreed with the contents. However, the court decided that while it was not an offence to circulate the original Black Panther newspaper it was an offence to distribute even one copy of Grass Roots containing a reprint of the article!

This is of course very convenient for those who wish to persecute activists like Tony Soares. Who would want to do that? It was clear to Soares that people enjoying well-paid jobs in the race relations industry were scared by people such as himself who advocated self-reliance and self-help because this would make the "race relations industry" superfluous. According to the police the prosecution would probably not have been brought had it not been for a complaint from Jack Baksi, the Community Relations Officer for Hackney.

This is not an isolated case: the police are always prepared to use vague charges against black people; for example, 18 black youths are at present on trial at the Old Bailey accused of conspiring with unknown people at a vaguely specified time to steal a small amount of cash. In other words, the police are accusing the 18 of planning to commit a crime, but they can't say who was planning it or when. It sounds like the nightmare suffered by the man in Franz Kafka's book "The Trial", who was accused of a crime but no-one would tell him what he was supposed to have done. How can people defend themselves against such a charge?

EVENTS and MEETINGS

Friday 24 June - Sunday 3 July. Gay Pride Week. Meetings, events, parties, picnics all over London. Details from Gay Pride Committee, 5 Caledonian Road, N.1.

Friday 1 July. Stoke Newington Town Hall, 8pm. "Wreckers" by David Edgar. Presented by 7:84 Theatre Company. Highly recommended! £1 at door.

Saturday 2 July. Chats Palace, 7.30pm. Professors Alexander's Music Hall.

Sunday 3 July. Tower Hill, 2.30pm. George Ince Campaign. March demanding statement from Home Secretary.

Wednesday 6 July. Queen visits Hackney - for 40 minutes.



Twenty-five glorious years on the throne

Tuesday 12 July. Rio Cinema, Kingsland High Street, E.8. Public meeting on the future of the Rio. Details from Harriet 254 5208.

Wednesday 13 July. Centerprise, 8pm. Womans Sub Committee of Hackney Trades Council open meeting. See listing under WOMEN.

Friday 15 and Saturday 16 July. Chats Palace, 7.30pm. Free Form in "No Pasaran" a social documentary about anti-fascism in the 30s.

HEALTH

CITY AND HACKNEY COMMUNITY HEALTH COUNCIL

Shoreditch Health Centre, 210 Kingsland Road, E.2. 739 6308. Monday-Friday 10am-5pm. Takes up your criticisms of local health services.

subscribe

to Hackney People's Press and make sure of your copies regularly. Only £1.45 for ten issues. Please make cheque out to Hackney People's Press and send it to Hackney People's Press, c/o Centerprise, 136 Kingsland High Street, London E.8.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

USE THIS SPACE FREE! Send details of events or regular meetings to HPP c/o Enterprise.

COMMUNITY, TENANTS and PENSIONERS GROUPS**HACKNEY PENSIONERS ASSOCIATION**

34 Dalston Lane, E.8
Advice service on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10.30 to 4pm. Tea Bar Monday to Friday 10.30 to 4pm.

TASK FORCE

34 Dalston Lane, E.8. Tel: 254 1620
Free advice for pensioners in Hackney. Odd jobs and visits in N.16 and N.4 only. Pensioners' activities and neighbourhood care in N.5.

HARAMBEE 2 PROJECT

Upper Clapton Congregational Hall, E.5.
Social and advice centre, aimed particularly at black people.
Tuesday 10am - 10pm
Thursday 10am - 4.30pm
Friday 10am - 10pm

OFF CENTRE

25 Hackney Grove, E.8 Tel: 985 8566
Advice for young people between 13 and 25 with any problems.
Monday-Friday 10am-6pm (open until 8.30pm on Tuesdays.)

FRIENDS ANONYMOUS SERVICE

Friendship House, 27 Hackney Grove, E.8
24 hour telephone service with people always willing to listen and act.
986 2233 (24 hours)
985 0973 (office hours)
986 9146

HACKNEY UNITED TENANTS ASSOCIATION

c/o 35 Finmere House, Woodberry Down, N.4.

HACKNEY GINGERBREAD

Group for one parent families. Meet every other Monday at the Family Centre, Rectory Road, N.16. Contact Brenda Royal 986 9776 for details.

CHILDREN**HACKNEY UNDER FIVES**

c/o Enterprise, 136 Kingsland High Street, E.8. 254 9145.
Information and support for parents with children below school age. Contact Madge Harte or Gillian Wilding.
Stores are available every Saturday from 10am-12.30pm. Open monthly meetings first Tuesday of every month at 8pm in Enterprise.

HACKNEY PLAY ASSOCIATION

c/o Enterprise, 136 Kingsland High Street, E.8. 254 9145.
Information, advice and help to people organising play facilities for children. Contact Cheryl Broadway or Mo Ross.

ECOLOGY**WASTE PAPER**

Take old newspaper, magazines and cardboard, to RICB, Drysdale Street, N.1 (just off Hoxton Street) and get given free Green Shield Stamps! 2 stamps per pound of paper.
Monday-Friday 7am-4pm. Saturday 9.30-12.30pm. All the paper YOU take in goes to help blind children to see.

FRIENDS OF THE EARTH

Local group: contact John Leach 739 2301.

POLITICAL GROUPS**HACKNEY LABOUR PARTY YOUNG SOCIALISTS**

Hackney South.
Meet at 108 Shepherdess Walk, N.1.
Details from Amy McQuaide 253 1556.
Hackney Central
Meets every Wednesday at 8pm at 34 Dalston Lane E.8.
Hackney North
Meet every other Monday at 8pm at 5 Stamford Hill, N.16. Contact Mark Douglas, 103 Osbaldestone Road, N.16 for details. All welcome.

HACKNEY COMMUNIST PARTY

10 branches hold meetings regularly in the borough. Contact Monty Goldman 12 Leaside Road, E.5. 806 1367.

HACKNEY YOUNG COMMUNIST LEAGUE

Contact E. Ross 986 5767 for details.

HACKNEY SOCIALIST WORKERS PARTY

Meet regularly in Enterprise. Contact Liz 739 9772 for details.

ANARCHIST WORKERS ASSOCIATION

c/o Enterprise, 136 Kingsland High Street, E.8. Contact Dave Coull 226 0817 for details.

HACKNEY COMMITTEE AGAINST RACIALISM

Meets on the first Wednesday of each month at the Hackney Community Relations Council, Mare Street, E.8.

WOMEN**HACKNEY TRADES COUNCIL WOMENS SUB COMMITTEE**

Re-formed recently. Meets once a month. Contact Judy Newcombe 254 0685 for details. All women and men welcome.

HACKNEY ABORTION CAMPAIGN

Meetings fortnightly at 16 Parkholme Road, E.8. Contact 249 3768 for details.

WOMEN'S CENTRE

1 Cazenove Road, N.16.
Advice, creche, children's clothes swap shop, beginners photography, crafts, yoga, relaxation, consciousness raising groups, food co-op, alternative medicine, self-defence. Further information from 806 6664. All women welcome.

FOOD**DOWN TO EARTH**

Durham Row, Stepney Green, E.1.
Wholefood shop selling grains, flour, beans, honey, herbs etc.
790 3512. Monday-Saturday 9am-6pm.

FOOD FOR ALL

3 Cazenove Road, N.16.
Wholefood shop, also selling books and crafts. All food carries levy to support the women's centre next door (see WOMEN) and proposed school at 5 Cazenove Road. 806 4138.

THE WORKSHOP**THE WORKSHOP**

81 Lenthal Road, E.8

254 9632 before 6pm on Tuesday to Friday only.

Learn to print posters, T shirts etc at non-commercial rates. Cost of materials only. Open Tuesdays-Sundays 1pm-8pm.

ADVICE

Free legal advice on housing, landlord and tenant, employment, social security, welfare, matrimonial, immigration and discrimination problems can be obtained from the following centres:

CENTERPRISE

136 Kingsland High Street, E.8.
THURSDAYS 6.30-7.30pm.

SNAGS?

Manor Road Church (corner of Manor Road and Lordship Road) N.16.
MONDAYS AND WEDNESDAYS 7-8pm.

HOXTON HALL

128a Hoxton Street, N.1.
WEDNESDAYS 7-8pm.

KINGSMEAD

Wally Foster Centre, Homerton Road, E.9.
TUESDAYS 7-8pm.

ALLEN ROAD

12 Allen Road, N.16.
THURSDAYS 7-8pm.

HACKNEY COMMUNITY RELATIONS COUNCIL

245 Mare Street, E.8.
TUESDAYS 7-8pm.

Advice can also be obtained from:

HACKNEY ADVICE BUREAU & LAW CENTRE

236-8 Mare Street, E.8. 986 8446.
Open Monday-Friday 10am-5pm (7.30pm on Thursdays.)

Legal aid and advice on housing, rents,

repairs and employment problems.

HACKNEY NORTH LABOUR PARTY ADVICE CENTRE

5 Stamford Hill, N.16.

Advice and information on legal, financial, welfare, housing, social security and personal problems.
FRIDAYS 7-8pm.

for HARAMBEE 2 PROJECT and OFF CENTRE
see Community Groups section on this page.

CENTERPRISE**CENTERPRISE**

136 Kingsland High Street, E.8.
254 9632.

Bookshop and office hours:
Tuesday-Saturday 10am-6.30pm.

Coffeebar and meeting room hours:
Tuesday-Friday 10am-10pm
Saturday 10am-6.30pm.

Facilities:

Coffeebar; bookshop; advice, information and contacts for individuals and groups. Typewriters can be used free, duplicating at cost price. Ask in General Office.

Advice Centre:

Legal and welfare advice session on Thursdays, 6.30-7.30pm. Contact Jon Webber or ring 254 9634.

Reading Centre:

For adults who find it hard to read or write. Contact Sue Shrapnel or ring 254 9635.

**Publishing Project:**

Publishing books by people who live in Hackney. Contact Ken Worpole or ring 254 9634.

Youth Project:

Table tennis, music, writing, discussion groups etc. Tuesday to Friday afternoons, Tuesday and Wednesday evenings. Contact Oliver Flavin.

MEDITATION**ANANDA MARGA**

For spiritual progress and social change. Introduction to meditation classes every Wednesday 7.30pm at 1 Cazenove Road, N.16. Everyone welcome!

HACKNEY MARSH RULES O.K.!

The Hackney Marsh Fun Festival is already under way and continues until Sunday 10th July with its unique mixture of events and entertainments. The main aim is to present a light-hearted look at the Jubilee as fun for all the family.

The centrepiece of the Festival celebrations is the 'Hackney Marsh Country Fayre' held on Daubeny Fields, E.9, on Sunday 26th June. The day is packed with stalls and sideshows, events and entertainments as the programme (correct when HPP went to press!) below shows. Food and good beer is on sale during the day and all the entertainment is free of charge.

PROGRAMME Hackney Marsh Country Fayre, Sunday 26th June

10.30 Hackney Pipe Band starts the finals of the street party games.

10.30 Free Form inflatables

10.30 Stalls and sideshows open (come and help Hackney People's Press bash the rat!). HM Rules OK! T-shirts on sale. Bar opens: 6 different real ales on sale!

11.00 Children's fancy dress competition.

11.15 Upton House Steel Band.

12.00 Opening ceremony by the City of London Pearly King.

12.30 Great Pram Race.

12.30 Dalston Mount school dancers

1.00 Steel and Skins: drum band

2.00 Open air church service

2.00 Action Space inflatables

2.00 Evergreen drum majorettes

2.00 Puppet Tree Giant Puppets

2.30 Karate demonstration

2.30 Albion Morris Men

2.30 Riverside Jazz Band

HACKNEY PEOPLE'S PRESS is an alternative paper produced by a group of people living in the borough, for the people of Hackney.

We do not publish for profit, but because we hope you will find the paper interesting and useful. We are not aligned to or funded by any political party. There is no Editor - we are all involved in editorial decisions.

It is YOUR paper, and we need YOUR help, YOUR interest and YOUR enthusiasm. If you can help us in any way - and we need help always to do everything: write articles, type and lay them out, take photographs, do cartoons, distribute and sell the finished copies - then we would like to hear from you. Come to our next meeting!

Tuesday 2nd August
CENTERPRISE
8pm

or write to us c/o Centerprise or ring 249 0311 (evenings and weekends.)

HPP is sold through various newsagents and bookshops throughout Hackney. See

the list below: if you think your newsagent would like to sell the paper, then please contact us. We also sell copies through individuals and community groups and on several housing estates. If you don't think that you can spare the time to become more fully involved in producing HPP, but you enjoy reading it and think more people should read it, then please contact us if you are willing to sell a few copies to your friends and neighbours, or at your meetings.

NEWSAGENTS AND BOOKSHOPS SELLING HACKNEY PEOPLE'S PRESS

E.8

Centerprise, 136 Kingsland High Street.

Griffiths, 230 Graham Road.

Youngers, 15 Dalston Lane.

Roundabout Books, 368 Mare Street.

Murrays, 208a Mare Street.

E.5

K & T, Nightingale Estate, Downs Road.

E.9

Huggetts, 246 Morning Lane.

Walkers, 193 Homerton High Street.

Camerons, 250 Morning Lane.

Bensleys, Wick Road

N.16

Emmetts, 170 Stoke Newington Church Street.

Griffiths, 7 Albion Parade.

Socratous, 67 Nevill Road.

CDS, 54 Evering Road.

Food for all, 3 Cazenove Road.

N.1

Housmans, 5 Caledonian Road.

Rising Free, 182 Upper Street.

Published by Hackney People's Press, Box 1, c/o Centerprise, 136 Kingsland High Street, London E.8. 249 0311 (evenings and weekends)